



city of
greenville

News Release

GREENVILLE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND PARTNERS TO CONDUCT SMOKE ALARM BLITZ APRIL 26

(Greenville SC) The Greenville City Fire Department has announced that it will partner with the South Carolina State Fire Marshal's Office and the Parker District Fire Department to conduct a community outreach campaign in the West Greenville/Woodside area on Saturday, April 26. The "Right Alarm. Right Location. Right Action." campaign is being made possible by a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant, and Greenville is one of five communities in South Carolina chosen to participate.

Personnel from each agency will meet at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, located at 2 Jeff Circle, which will function as the command center. Then, beginning at 9:00 a.m., teams of firefighters will canvass the neighborhood to check each home for working smoke alarms, help residents develop a fire escape plan and provide additional fire safety information. For homes without working smoke alarms, the firefighters will install 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms for free. Fire personnel will be wearing safety vests, and signage featuring fire safety messages will be posted throughout the neighborhood.

Since 2008, there have been 46 fires in the West Greenville/Woodside neighborhoods, totaling almost \$750,000 in damage and loss. During the same time period, there have been 21 fire-related deaths in Greenville County.

"The goal of this outreach program is to save lives," said Greenville Fire Chief Stephen Kovalcik. "We're asking residents to please check their smoke alarms to make sure they're working, and if they have one that's more than 10 years old, to replace it. The chirp you hear while testing the alarm means the battery works; however, it doesn't necessarily mean the sensor inside the alarm is still working after 10 years."

A week prior to the event, firefighters will knock on doors in the target area and will leave door hangers informing residents that they will be returning on April 26 to check homes and install alarms. If a resident is not home on the day of the blitz, he or she can call the number on the door hanger to schedule a time for someone to come back.

“We are so happy to be coming to Greenville to support this important program,” said State Fire Marshal Shane Ray. “We applaud the Greenville and Parker District fire departments for their proactive approach and outreach within the community, and we look forward to meeting many West Greenville and Woodside area citizens during the event.”

April 26 also falls during National Community Development Week, which is marking its 40th anniversary this year, and to celebrate, the City’s Community Development Division is partnering with the fire departments to host a cookout for neighborhood residents from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the command center. The inspection teams will take a break during this time to eat lunch and interact with the residents. They will also be joined by City Council member Lillian Flemming, who represents the area.

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CONTACT:

Fire Inspector L.C. Dendy
(864) 467-4450 Office
(864) 631-4315 Mobile